

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks which follow.

By this amendment, claims 106, 108, 109, 111-116 and 120 have been cancelled. Claims 107, 110, 117 and 118 have been amended. The amendments are fully supported in the as-filed specification.

The claims presently pending are 105, 107 110 and 117-119.

The amendments to the claims address the various grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and the rejection is deemed to have been overcome and, accordingly its withdrawal is respectfully solicited.

Claims 105-108, 114-116 and 118-120 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Patel article in *Genomics*, 1998. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The arguments presented in the amendment of July 6, 2007 as to why the claims distinguish over Patel et al. are repeated and incorporated herein by reference. It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended serve to distinguish over the teaching of Patel et al. and, accordingly, the rejection has been overcome and should be withdrawn since a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not been established.

Claims 105-120 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over the article of Nagarkatti et al., *Journal of Human Genetics*, 2002. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claims, as amended herein, are deemed to distinguish over the teaching of the Nagarkatti et al. reference and, as such, the § 102(a) rejection for anticipation is deemed to be overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully solicited.

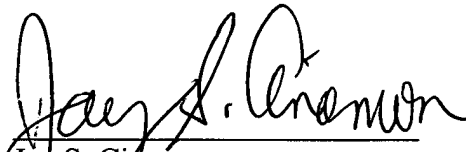
In view of the fact that all of the issues raised in the Office Action of September 21, 2007 have been addressed and the rejections overcome, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any fees which may be due and which have not been submitted herewith to our Deposit Account No. 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,

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